REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are currently pending. Claims 1, 3-6 and 10 currently stand rejected under Section 102 as being anticipated by Felsenstein et al. (USP 6,421,617). Claims 2 and 7-9 have been rejected under Section 103 in view of Felsenstein. Applicants believe that claims 1-10 are patentable over Felsenstein for at least the following reasons.

An aspect of the present invention generally includes sensors that provide input values related to fluid flow. The method in claims 1 and 10 (the two pending independent claims) uses these input values and "gradient" values thereof to control a computer system. (Claim 1 includes "using the input values and gradient values between the input values to control an action of the computer system," while claim 10 includes "using the plurality of input values and gradients between the plurality of input values to control an action of a computer system.") For purposes of this particular embodiment, Applicants have defined the term "gradient" to mean "the difference in intensity between two successive values of a sensor output for a time period." (See paragraph [0084] of the specification.)

The measuring apparatus described in Felsenstein includes a large number of sensors to measure the fluid flow. (See Col. 2, lines 30-35) ("It is, therefore, desirable that the fluid flow measurement apparatus include a relatively large number of sensors, since the acquisition of a large amount of data regarding the fluid flow may be necessary — and is, at least, desirable — to ensure that the fluid flow is measured with adequate accuracy and comprehensiveness."). As noted in the Office Action, Figure 4 shows a variety of calculations that can be performed using the data collected from the sensors. More particularly, Figure 4 includes the "best-fit plane" 402, which is a graphical representation of the data. The

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Felsenstein reference defines the term "gradient" to be the tilt of this plane with respect to the plane of the sensor array (i.e. plane 404 in the Figure). Thus "gradient," as used in the Felsenstein reference, is defined as a characteristic of a single set of measurements.

Unlike the Felsenstein reference, Applicant's claimed invention utilizes data from two successive measurements, taken at different times, from a single sensor. Applicant's invention allows for much greater flexibility in the control of a computer system. It also likely results in requiring fewer sensors, thereby minimizing manufacturing costs.

The Felsenstein reference does not expressly or inherently disclose, or otherwise teach or suggest, (1) "using the input values and gradient values between the input values to control an action of the computer system;" or (2) "using the plurality of input values and gradients between the plurality of input values to control an action of a computer system," as those terms are defined in the independent claims of the present application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully traverses the outstanding rejection under both Section 102 and 103.

CONCLUSION

Based on at least the foregoing, the Applicants believe that claims 1-10 are in condition for allowance.

A Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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